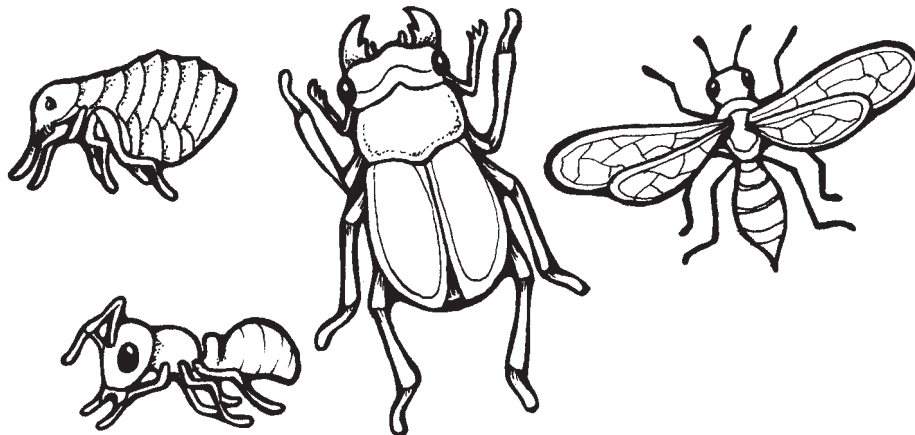


# Insects?

Most young children think that all bugs are insects. This experiment will help them to realize that this is not true. They will start to appreciate the details that help us to differentiate between bugs and insects.

## Materials

- 8–12 plastic bugs
- index cards
- black marker
- glue or two-sided tape
- Lab Worksheet 1 or 2 (see pages 62–63)



## Directions

1. Collect the plastic bugs wherever available. Some places to look include novelty shops, nature stores, and the little trinket machines near the entrance to many grocery stores. Some children may own the toy that makes “bugs” by cooking liquid plastic. If so, they may be willing to make some bugs for the class.
2. Affix each bug to an index card, using glue or two-sided tape. Write a letter of the alphabet on the card, using a different letter for each bug.
3. Discuss or review with the children the characteristics of insects: six legs, exoskeleton, and three body segments. Also discuss the characteristics of other closely related animals such as spiders, ticks, and centipedes. Talk about the differences between what we commonly refer to as bugs (any wingless or four-winged insect; mouthparts used for piercing and sucking) and insects (usually small invertebrates with an exoskeleton; adults have six legs, three body segments, and two pairs of wings).
4. Talk about how to classify animals. Ask children what types of characteristics they can use to classify animals. Brainstorm a list of characteristics.
5. Discuss how to enter data in a table. Then let the children complete either Lab Worksheet 1 or 2, depending on their level. Worksheet 2 requires a slightly elevated cognitive skill.



# Lab Worksheet 1

**Question** Are all bugs insects?

**What You Need**

- 1 set of bugs (can be plastic or real)



**What You Do**

1. Count the legs on each bug.
2. Write the number of legs on each bug in the table below.
3. Put an X under Yes if you think the bug is an insect. Put an X under No if you do not think the bug is an insect.

Bug	Number of Legs	Is this an insect?	
		Yes	No
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			
I			
J			
K			
L			

**What You Learned:** Are all bugs insects? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No (Check one.)